

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 09929 221245Z

17  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

IO-13 DHA-02 EA-07 EUR-12 ACDA-07 /099 W  
----- 006718

R 221055Z SEP 76  
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7785  
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL  
AMCONSUL KARACHI  
AMCONSUL LAHORE  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 9929

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, PK, PINT, SHUM  
SUBJ: SENATOR RAMAY CONVICTED

REF: (A) ISLAMABAD 7725, (B) ISLAMABAD 9253

1. ON SEPTEMBER 20, A LAHORE SPECIAL TRIBUNAL FOUND FORMER PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER AND BHUTTO STALWART, SENATOR HANEEF RAMAY, WHO LEFT PPP WITH GHULAM MUSTAFA KHAR IN LATE 1975 AND LATER JOINED MUSLIM LEAGUE, GUILTY OF SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. THE TRIBUNAL SENTENCED HIM TO FOUR AND A HALF YEARS' IMPRISONMENT PLUS A FINE OF RS. 50,000, OR AN ADDITIONAL SIX MONTHS IN PRISON IN LIEU OF THE FINE.

2. RAMAY WAS ARRESTED AFTER HE MADE A SPEECH IN MARCH 1976 EN LYALLPUR, PUNJAB. THE UNANIMOUS VERDICT OF THE TRIBUNAL WAS THAT THE SPEECH WAS BOTH LIKELY AND INTENDED TO RECKLESSLY (A) PREJUDICE PAKISTAN'S RELATIONS WITH CHINA, IRAN, RUSSIA, INDIA, AND AFGHANISTAN; (B) JEOPARDIZE THE STRATEGY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS; (C) UNDERMINE THE LOYALTY AND POPULARITY OF  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 09929 221245Z

THE ARMED FORCES; (D) THREATEN THE POPULARITY OF THE

LEGALLY CONSTITUTED GOVERNMENT; (E) HARM THE SOLIDARITY OF THE NATION; AND (F) THREATEN THE PUBLIC PEACE AND TRANQUILITY.

3. OF SPECIAL INTEREST IS FACT THAT THE TRIBUNAL ACCEPTED A FINDING BY THE LAHORE HIGH COURT THAT FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARE NOT A FIT SUBJECT FOR PUBLIC POLITICAL DISCUSSION. THE TRIBUNAL STATED THAT FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARE TOO COMPLICATED TO DISCUSS IN "UNDIPLOMATIC LANGUAGE" AMONG THE LITERATE, MUCH LESS THE UNEDUCATED. THE TRIBUNAL'S FINDING SAID DISCUSSION OF PAKISTAN'S DEALINGS WITH FRIENDLY NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO "THE DIPLOMATS DEALING SECRETLY, STATESMAN-LIKE AND SHREWDLY, LIKE THE PLAYERS OF THE GAME OF CHESS," SINCE ONLY THEY HAVE THE REQUISITE SKILLS. THE TRIBUNAL JUSTIFIED THIS RESTRICTION ON THE BASES THAT A STATE OF EMERGENCY STILL EXISTS IN PAKISTAN AND THAT POLITICIANS ARE DISCUSSING DELICATE MATTERS IN PUBLIC AS A MEANS OF GAINING POPULARITY CHEAPLY.

4. RAMAY'S SPEECH ALSO MENTIONED THE ATOMIC BOMB. THE TRIBUNAL HELD THAT SUCH MENTION AS HE MADE WAS HARMFUL TO PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN RELATIONS, SINCE FOREIGN POWERS ARE LED TO BELIEVE THAT PAKISTAN INTENDS TO PRODUCE SUCH A WEAPON OR THAT PAKISTAN IS INCAPABLE OF PRODUCING THE BOMB; EITHER VIEW IS DETRIMENTAL TO PAKISTAN'S INTERESTS.

5. COMMENT: RAMAY WILL DOUBTLESS APPEAL TO THE SUPREME COURT OF PAKISTAN. SUCH APPEAL IS PERMITTED UNDER THE RECENTLY AMENDED DEFENCE OF PAKISTAN RULES (REF A), BUT IN THE WAKE OF THE FIFTH AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION (REF B), THE COURT WILL BE ABLE TO REVIEW THE TRIBUNAL'S VERDICT ONLY ON PROCEDURAL MATTERS AND THE EXACT LETTER OF THE STATUTE, BUT NOT ON THE ISSUE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS THAT THE CONSTITUTION GUARANTEES. EMBASSY BELIEVES IT IS UNLIKELY THAT SENATOR RAMAY WILL SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY BEFORE NATIONAL ELECTIONS. THE POSSIBILITY OF A RECONCILIATION WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 09929 221245Z

THE PRIME MINISTER AND RAMAY'S CONSEQUENT RELEASE FROM IMPRISONMENT IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE, HOWEVER, CONSIDERING THE FLOATING POLITICAL ALLEGIANCE SYSTEM IN PAKISTAN. BYROADE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARRESTS, TRIALS, SPEECHES, POLITICAL PRISONERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976ISLAMA09929  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760358-0992  
**From:** ISLAMABAD  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760933/aaaabcfb.tel  
**Line Count:** 111  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 ISLAMABAD 7725, 76 ISLAMABAD 9253  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 02 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <02 JUN 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2004 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SENATOR RAMAY CONVICTED  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, SHUM, PK, (RAMAY, HANEEF)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006